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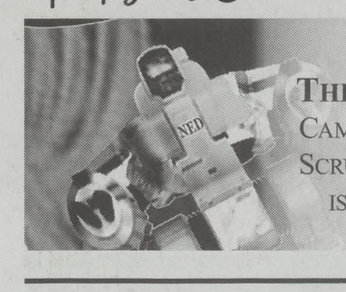

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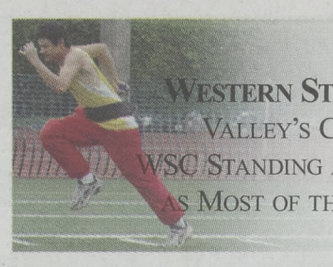

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"STEEL PIER" CAPTURES AUDIENCES' HEARTS.

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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 64, ISSUE NO. 6 | APRIL 19, 2006 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Armenian Genocide Remembered at Valley

■ **LACCD acknowledges Armenian Genocide as Valley schedules two events to remember genocide and holocaust victims.**

BY DANIEL SROURIAN
STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees passed a resolution April 5 designating April 24 the district-wide "Day of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915 to 1923." The board cited that more than 1.5 million Armenians killed by Turkish soldiers through massacres and death marches and, "Any such systematic destruction of a culture must be remembered and acknowledged in the hope of preventing all such events in the future."

"The Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District encourages the colleges and all of the employees and students to commemorate this historic tragedy and to learn from it." The district's acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide is progress for the Armenian community; many countries, including Turkey and the United States do not recognize the event as "genocide."

The Valley College Associated Student Union will transform Monarch Hall into an Armenian history remembrance center Monday to acknowledge the genocide. Students will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a candlelight vigil to remember those murdered during the first genocide of the 20th century. After the memorial, the Armenian Student Association will sponsor a short program including Armenian musicians, dance groups and palm readers.

ASU President Nelli Martirosyan said the events are planned "to bring awareness about the Armenian Genocide. Being an Armenian, as long as we breathe and live, we do not have the right to not remember those innocent Armenian souls who were tortured to death and killed in brutal, heartless, inhuman ways."

"To me, being an Armenian means also having obligations to my country and nation, one of which is to work till death for the Armenian Genocide awareness and recognition."

see *'Genocide'* page 2

ARTAK AYVAZYAN / VALLEY STAR

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN - Associated Student Union President Nelli Martirosyan puts the finishing touches on the ASU-sponsored Genocides Memorial, which was organized to commemorate the millions of lives lost throughout all of history's genocides. The memorial includes the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 and the holocaust, which will be remembered this month.

Candidates Prepare for ASU Elections

■ Though many are running unopposed, student government hopefuls are still campaigning full-force.

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

The current Valley College Associated Student Union will hold elections on April 25 and 26 at Monarch Square to determine the executive board for the 2006-2007 school year.

"I hope that each [candidate] takes their position seriously," said Nelli Martirosyan, the current ASU president. "I'm excited … and really hoping the next ASU will be a hard-working team that wants to make a tangible difference for the student body."

Positions open for voting include president, vice president, treasurer, commissioners of athletics, evening division, fine arts, political affairs, student and social affairs, campus and environmental affairs, and ethnic and cultural affairs. However, there are no candidates for commissioners of public relations, campus and environmental affairs and treasurer.

All candidates except for those running for president are unopposed, in which case voters may choose "yes" or "no" and if the candidate receives at least 51 percent "yes" votes, then he or she wins the position.

The ASU is the campus' student government, a student-run and elected organization that was created to represent the voice and interests of the student body through campus events, educational information and more. The ASU works with a faculty advisor and has a constitution that sets its rules. It is funded through a budget from optional student membership fees, which are currently $7.

All candidates started campaigning for their positions the week of April 16, with the exception of the positions that had no candidates, which will now be appointed by the incoming ASU executive board next semester.

The chief justice, parliamentarian and inter-club council positions, whose job duties have specific requirements, will be appointed by the ASU during their semester in accordance with their rules.

Students interested in voting can do so by visiting the voting area in Monarch Square April 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and evening students can vote from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Voting is open to all Valley students and a paid ASU membership is not required.

ASU Commish Aims for a Greener Valley

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College recycling program has seen little progress in the past year, despite the concerns and work of the Associated Student Union, expanding only to include all types of paper.

The college, which is required to recycle at least 50 percent of all industrial waste by a California mandate on state institutions, meets that standard by recycling paper, grass and plant trimmings.

Simply meeting the minimum requirements is seen as not enough to Rachel Davis, the ASU commissioner of campus and environmental affairs.

"I would like to see the program expanded to include bottles and cans," Davis said. "Paper recycling is great for offices, but truly doesn't meet all of this campus' needs."

Valley is looking to first establish a solid paper recycling program and then expand, according to Plant Facilities Director Tom Lopez.

"We're looking to improve and create a viable program that can exist with or without student involvement," Lopez said. "So we're going to run a test program for all the different kinds of paper in six buildings and then work forward from there."

With the lack of progress it has faced, the campus remains without a program for its more than 16,000 students to recycle their bottles and cans. That hasn't stopped Davis, who hoped to educate Valley students about recycling and the overall importance of the environment by organizing an Earth Day Celebration Wednesday, April 5 in Monarch Hall.

"I thought it was great," Davis said. "I hope this sparked some interest in the environment."

The possibility for more student involvement and action was seen at the Earth Day event, which about 50 people attended despite the bad weather.

"I thought [Earth Day] was very successful," said ASU

see *'Recycle'* page 2

Valley's Brightest Honored

■ Students' hardwork pays off at Valley's Dean's Reception as nearly 2,000 make it onto the Dean's and President's lists.

BY MARC HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's semi-annual Dean's Reception, which honors the campus' top students, was held April 6 at Monarch Hall and featured an inspiring speech and live entertainment.

"It's nice to be on the Dean's list," said astronomy major Tom Coogan, who is one of the 1,621 Dean's List honorees at this semester's reception. Referring to his hopes to become one of the select students to receive the prestigious honor of making it onto the President's List, Coogan said, "but now I feel a lot of pressure to make it again two more times."

The Dean's Reception is held each spring and fall to acknowledge students' achievements from the previous semester. Qualifying students earned at least a 3.5 GPA in 12 or more units for the full-time list and at least six units for the part-time list. President's List honorees, of which there were 315 this semester, are students who have appeared on the Dean's List for three consecutive semesters.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Tony Cardenas' speech was the highlight of the ASU-sponsored reception. The speech was not only inspiring; it also inspired a lot of laughter.

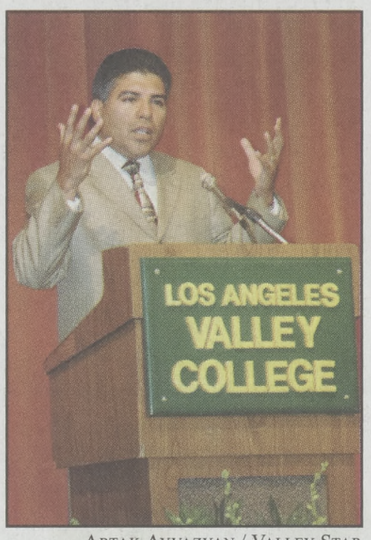
Cardenas joked about wanting to toss a high school teacher out of a second story window after the teacher told him he didn't have what it takes to make it into the University of California at Santa Barbara's engineering program, the third hardest engineering program to get into at the time he applied. He went on to give another anecdote about when he first made the Dean's List at UCSB, a school that some thought he would never be accepted to.

"I went to my brother who was also going to UCSB at the time," said Cardenas, "and I asked him, 'what's the Dean's List?' My brother looked at me and said, 'why do you want to know?'"

Vice President of Academic Affairs Carly Tronto, Academic Senate President Shannon Stack and Valley President Tyree Wieder joined Cardenas in congratulating this semester's honorees.

The speakers also made a point of acknowledging the people that make Valley's most excellent students' success possible.

"We all know how hard our students work," said Wieder addressing the audience. "My role today is to acknowledge the family and friends who support our students."



ARTAK AYVAZYAN / VALLEY STAR

RAISING HOPE - Los Angeles City Councilmember Tony Cardenas inspires and congratulates Valley's finest students during his speech at the ASU-sponsored Dean's Reception.

see *'Reception'* page 2

VALLEY STAR

SHOOTING FOR THE STARS- The Valley Star staff, led by Editor in Chief Tammy Funicello (center) picked up 11 awards, including its seventh consecutive General Excellence plaque, at the recent Journalism Association of Community Colleges state convention.

Star Staff Shines at State

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Valley Star staff won its seventh straight General Excellence award as well as 10 other awards at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges state convention held March 30 through April 2 at the Wilshire Grand in Downtown Los Angeles.

General Excellence is a prestigious award that was given to only 11 schools in the Star's qualifying category.

"Winning our seventh consecutive General Excellence feels greats," said Managing Editor LaGina Phillips, who is serving her fifth and final semester on the staff. "I hope future staffs keep up the tradition."

The conference spanned four days and included more than 45 community colleges from California, and a few from Arizona and Ohio. The staff competed against the more than

see *'Star'* page 2

Don't Forget to
VOTE!
Tuesday, April 25
Wednesday, April 26
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Monarch Square
See Page 2 for Candidate Statements

THINK TRANSFER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CAREER TRANSFER CENTER AT (818) 947-2646

Wednesday, April 19
UCLA Day
Information Fair
Monarch Square
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Student Workshops
Admissions
Financial Aid
Student Life
Foreign Language 100
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Undergraduate Research
Foreign Language 102
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Education Minor
Foreign Language
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday, April 20
CSULA Representative
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
UCSB Representative
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, April 21
UC Merced bus trip
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 25
CSU Dominguez Hills
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 26
CSU Los Angeles Day
Information Fair
Monarch Square
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

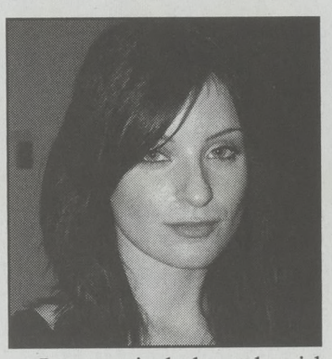
All events are held in the Career/Tranfer Center in the Administration Building, room 126 unless otherwise indicated.

ASU CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

PHOTOS BY DANIEL KANE

Valley Star extended to all 10 candidates in next week's ASU election the opportunity to submit statements. Below are the responses.

REBECCA ERVIN
President



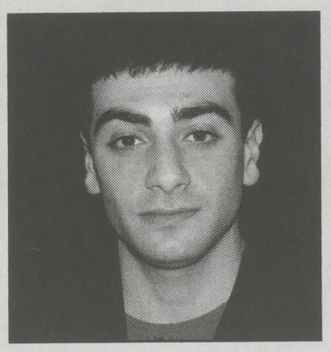
I am excited about the rich cultural diversity of LAVC. It's with that excitement that I enter the race for president of the ASU. As president my primary goal would be to engage and unite the many students that make up the cultural mosaic of LAVC. I have lived in seven states and have traveled extensively around the world. It is these travels that have given me a passion for the rewards of cultural diversity. I am already involved in the ASU as a member of the Inter-Club Council, representing P.E.S.S.A, the science scholars club. I am a natural leader with a passion and dedication to public service. I am a 4.0 student and a member of Tau Alpha Epsilon, the honors club.

My mission is:

- To enhance the student-centered environment by ensuring that the variety of clubs and students feel included and are embraced warmly by all.
- To create opportunities for students to participate in activities that will be fun and exciting.
- To persuade LAVC to provide healthy meal options on campus.
- To improve the safety of the campus for students and teachers.
- To update LAVC to the most current technologies available.

I am here to represent all the students and clubs represented at the table of the ASU. It's my goal to make sure their voices are heard and respected.

HAYK GALSTYAN
Political Affairs Commissioner

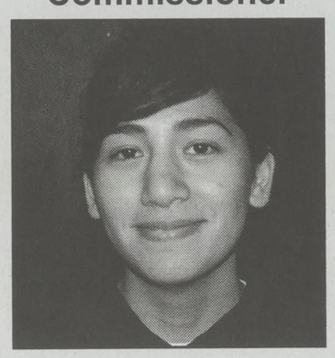


My name is Hayk Galstyan. I am a freshman and business major at Valley College. I was the vice president of the ASU at The State University of Armenia.

Being a vigorous person I want to put in my effort and assiduousness to become beneficial to my college and society. If elected commissioner of political affairs I will become a part of the ASU and will be responsible for keeping the ASU informed on federal, state, and district legislation that may affect our students.

Our goal is to collaborate with students, which will allow them to be informed about meetings and other important affairs that will facilitate their studying process in college. I consider it a great honor for me to serve my college.

LEILA GHAYOURI
Student and Social Affairs Commissioner



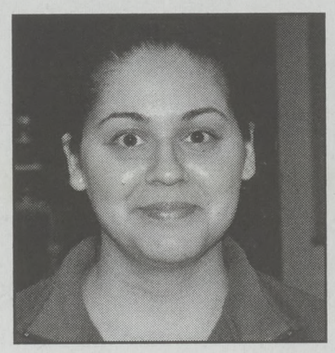
By electing me as Commissioner of Student and Social Affairs, I plan to create a positive atmosphere for my fellow students by allowing myself to be flexible and open to new ideas.

I know this position holds a great amount of responsibility, and I am committed to represent the students and the position in ASU.

In addition, this is a wonderful opportunity and experience for me to learn and apply toward my future as I continue to study my major in Sociology.

Furthermore, I hope to work with other team members in the ASU on ways to improve issues that come forth here at Valley College.

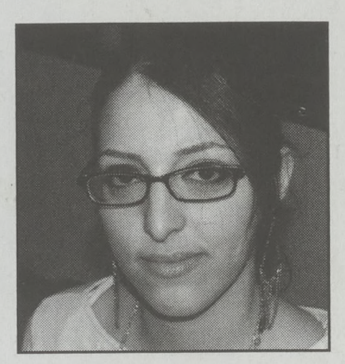
SILVIA JIMENEZ
Evening Division Commissioner



My name is Silvia Jimenez, and I am running for Commissioner of Evening Division for the 2006-2007 school year. As Commissioner of Evening Division, my top priority will be to continue to carry out the ASU's popular Book Exchange program. In addition, I will focus on making necessary improvements such as permanent Book Exchange boards and further advertisement of an online book exchange forum.

I believe that I am the best candidate for this position because I am an evening student myself, and as a wife and mother of two young toddlers, I fully understand the needs and concerns of the "non-traditional" student. Topics such as poor lighting, eating dinner on campus and finding suitable childcare are only a few examples of the issues that I will tackle. Most importantly, I will work hard with the elected ASU members in addressing these concerns and make the voice of evening students even more powerful. I am determined to make a difference, and that is why I am asking for your vote "yes." Thank you.

JIZEL VARTANIAN
Fine Arts Commissioner



My name is Jizel Vartanian. I am a woman who likes being in charge of organizing events and making sure that everything is in order. I am extremely committed to any job and/or responsibility I take on. No matter what I have in hand at the moment, I make my position a priority, take responsibility, and act on it very seriously. Attending meetings– not only because one has to but because one wants to – and being a part of your student government takes dedication. I am a dedicated and hard-working individual. I am sure that by being a part of the student government, I will have the opportunity to learn more and more, increase my knowledge and improve my skills while making a difference in the lives of students at Los Angeles Valley College. I am confident that the Associated Student Union is a perfect fit for me. I will do anything to be as successful as I can. Knowing I can take on any challenge and overcome it, I'm looking forward to the position of Commissioner of Fine Arts of the Associated Student Union of Los Angeles Valley College.

CAMPUS CRIME

Pool Shark Gets Thirsty

BY MARC HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

GAMBLING / THEFT

After losing a pool game in the Lion's Den, an unidentified male student attempted to repay his gambling debt by stealing two refreshments from the campus bookstore.

After he walked out with the stolen merchandise a bookstore employee stopped him and called the sheriff's office.

Sheriff's deputies conducted an unsuccessful search for the pool-hustlers and the stolen drinks, which had combined worth of $3.50.

No charges are being brought against the student. He was detained at the sheriff's station and later released to his parents' custody.

GRAND THEFT

More than $1,000 in chemicals and cash were stolen from the campus' chemistry lab between March 3 and March 30.

According to a report filed with the sheriff's station, while doing inventory a Valley employee noticed numerous bottles of chemicals missing from the chemistry storage room. She also noticed that $5 in coins were missing from the cash drawer.

The responding deputy inspected the location and noticed no signs of forced entry.

According to the report, the employee said that numerous staff members and part-time instructors have access to the building.

The Valley College Sheriff's Department asks that anyone with information regarding any of these incidents please call the department at (818) 947-2911.

'Genocide'

continued from page 1

The event will be followed by a Holocaust Remembrance Day from 9 to 11 a.m. on April 25. The Hillel-sponsored day will acknowledge more than 10 genocides, including the Jewish Holocaust.

The events on campus are just an example of the numerous events that take place in the Armenian community on April 24. The biggest event is held in West Hollywood, where nearly 7,000 Armenians protest in front of the Turkish embassy for almost the entire day.

"I wish I could make it to the protests on Wilshire, but I have class and work," said Valley student Sevag Soghomonian. "However, I like what Valley is doing, and the times are appropriate. I'll definitely attend."

'Star'

continued from page 1

550 students in attendance in the on-the-spot awards, one of the convention's two award categories The event also featured competitions for mail-in entries from the Fall 2005 semester.

Among the staff's winners is Phillips, who took home four awards, including first-, second- and third-place on-the-spot awards. Staff writer Nick Santoni won second place for on-the-spot sports story as well as an honorable mention in the mail-in sports game story category. Opinion Editor Maggie Ownbey won an honorable mention in on-the-spot headline writing and mail-in editorial writing. The newspaper also placed second for best use of photos and graphics.

"I'm proud of the teamwork, but we couldn't have done it without our team leaders," said Ownbey of the newspaper's advisers, Rod Lyons and Bill Dauber.

'Reception'

continued from page 1

Valley student and operatic singer Katherine Clark provided entertainment for the ceremony, singing beautiful renditions of Cristoph Willibald Gluck's "O Del Mio Dolce Ardor" and George Gershwin's "Summertime" to piano accompaniment.

'Recycling'

continued from page 1

President Nelli Martirosyan. "When I walked in to Monarch Hall and saw all the students who came even though it was raining, Rachel's passion for the environment showed."

The event featured an appearance from actor and activist Ed Begley, Jr., who is a Valley alumnus, as well as a hybrid car display, tables with information about the environment, healthy foods from Whole Foods market, Tree People and more. Davis, whose ASU job duties include the task of promoting recycling at Valley, said that some of the obstacles mentioned about expanding the current recycling program include the lack of student involvement, the amount of work and cost. "It's said that we need to get students actively involved in the process," Davis said. "[The recycling program] would provide a very tangible way to participate … If the program would generate funds, can't we use them to pay someone to empty the bins?"

Davis' impact is noticed by many other ASU commissioners, who say that she is always recycling, cleaning up trash around campus or trying to teach people to be more environmentally friendly.

"Rachel has made a huge difference in my life," Martirosyan said. "I always make sure to throw my trash away and recycle now, she is one of the most hard-working members of the ASU."

ASU
Working For You!

ASU ELECTIONS!

Do you want to make a difference in your school?

Elect next year's student government!
April 25th and 26th
9am- 2pm, 5pm-7pm
Monarch Square
Also
Hear your Candidates speak!
April 19th @ 1pm
Alice B. Thurston Circle

Wanna support your ASU more?
Vote to raise the ASU fee from $7 to $10.
Help ASU support more programs
to help you!

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WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576. Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

OPINION

AN OPINION

Borderlines Drawn on Humanity

■ U.S. treatment of Hispanics is Un-American.

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

America is known as the land of the free and the home of the brave.

It's such a nice heart-warming slogan, but the truth behind its welcoming nature and the extent to which it applies isn't so clear.

As a country that praises itself for being a place for the oppressed to find success, and one founded by immigrants and built on their hard-working backs, the implications of HR4437, the immigration bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in December, 2005 are immoral and a contradiction to what America is supposed to stand for.

HR4437 proposed legislation that would make it a felony to be living in the U.S. illegally, essentially turning more than 11 million undocumented immigrants into felons.

The bill would also make it a felony offense to assist known illegal aliens in staying in the country.

Criminalizing millions of hard-working people and tearing families apart isn't supposed to be the American way.

The Statue of Liberty, which came to the U.S. from France in 1886, has an inscription that in part reads, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

We can only hope that our great American symbol of freedom has had a green card all these years, or she might be sent back to France as an unwelcome felon.

If the bill were to pass, Hispanics would be the most largely affected group, with more than 41 million living in the U.S., including many of the 11 million who come illegally and work low-paying jobs just to provide for their families.

The bill's harsh measures caused large protests across the nation, with millions of people gathering to show their opposition, including 500,000 people in Los Angeles alone.

The U.S.'s southern border states, which share a nearly 2,000 mile border with Mexico and would be the communities most impacted by HR4437, were the scene for most of the protests. Hispanics in Texas, California, Arizona and other states organized themselves in mass to make their presence known.

Walkouts in California schools showed the power Hispanics have, as more than 40,000 students across the state didn't go to school, causing school districts that receive money for student attendance, to lose more than $500,000.

A majority of the students walking out were U.S. citizens born in America protesting a law that would send their parents, siblings and grandparents out of the country as criminals.

"It was my Dad's and Grandfather's sweat and tears that built the city of Los Angeles," said Saul Corona, a high school student whose father came to the United States illegally. "People like them did things no one else wanted to do because they wanted me to have a better future."

That story is a very familiar one for many Hispanic immigrants, who not only built cities across the southwestern states, but also continue to keep those same economies running by doing work that few would want to do.

We can only hope that our great American symbol of freedom has had a green card all these years, or she might be sent back to France as an unwelcome felon.

The immigration issue has shown that many U.S. lawmakers regard Hispanics as second-class people, with another version of the bill offering immigrants the chance to stay and work jobs as dishwashers, custodians, construction workers and other low-paid employees.

"Who will pick our lettuce if we send the immigrants back?" was one question asked to Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., an anti-immigration supporter, to which he replied, "Don't worry about that, we have lots of prisoners who we will make do all that work."

Already the nation's largest minority group and growing every year, it seems many Americans feel threatened by Hispanics' large numbers and passionate cultural pride, as the sight of protesters waving Mexican and other native flags has drawn strong criticism against a supposed invasion on America.

So what is the real reasoning behind the desire to close the borders?

Perhaps Hispanics inability to conform to being relegated as passive laborers who do as told isn't so welcome in America.

Imagine where we would be as a country today if America's founding fathers would have never stood up for their rights as human beings.

Destroying families and making criminals of people based on their nationality and citizenship is neither free nor brave.

AN OPINION

Campus Safety Comes Full Circle

■ Valley's campus is safer than many think.

BY MARCO ELORREAGA
STAFF WRITER

I don't want a monitor implanted in my neck and I'm sure neither do you, but that's what many students are asking of Valley College when it comes to campus safety, and why shouldn't they?

They pay a whopping $26 per unit, complain about book prices, don't eat at the school cafeteria and vandalize school property, so why shouldn't they?

After all, Valley has all the funds in the world. Didn't it get funded with Proposition A/AA money?

The reason why each part of the campus isn't the best lit, best monitored, or even best patrolled area of school is because money is scarce.

Planning and development takes time.

In the three years since the measure passed, there has been almost a 30 percent inflation rate with construction costs. Two construction projects have been eliminated. The money from the initial bond is gone and the school is shaving costs from one project so it can add to other projects, and Valley is considering another bond.

So, it's not like Valley is twiddling its thumbs while students are being victimized by violence or harassment.

While security improvements are materializing very slowly, there have been less than 10 cases of burglary and assault and battery since September 2005.

"For the size, we are probably one of the safer campuses," said Vice President of Administration Tom Jacobsmeyer. "At 105 acres and almost 800,000 square feet of buildings, we do pretty well."

And it's about to become safer.

Valley is beginning the process of installing a system of 25 cameras that will be able to relay back to security officers' carts instead of having them be in the office to watch the monitors.

"The security officers driving around will be able to monitor the cameras from the mobile vehicle," said Jacobsmeyer. "Although we have a minimal amount of money to hire security officers, we can triple their ability to cover the campus by adding this capability."

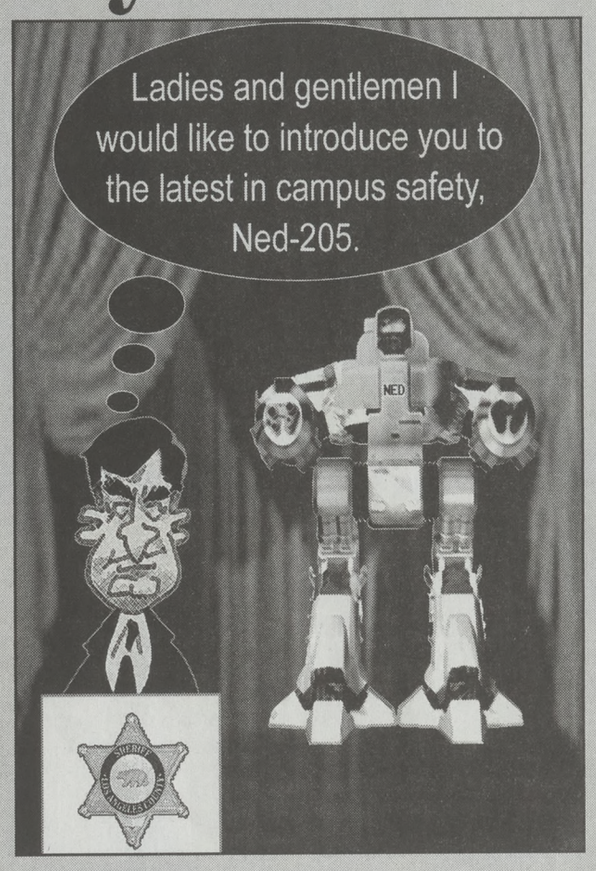


ILLUSTRATION BY JESUS ESQUIVEL / VALLEY STAR

In addition, Valley conducted a study about the lighting on campus by measuring the "foot-candles of light," a measurement of the intensity of light falling on a surface, addressing the problem from an "analytical point of view rather than just saying, 'oh, it seems dark here."

If that isn't enough, the school will be installing automated locks for all the buildings, $10,000 blue light poles and 20 call boxes that will automatically be connected to the school's sheriff's department.

The 10-foot poles will have a big flashing blue light on top of them. If there is an emergency, a student would be able to go to one of these poles and punch the button to set off the light and call the sheriff, which would send somebody in less than three minutes.

While most of these things sound like common sense (and they are), Valley is taking all the right steps in order to secure the safety of the campus.

The issue of safety isn't neglected by the school, but by careless students who make themselves vulnerable by not taking advantage of resources such as nighttime escorts by the sheriff's department.or well-lit pathways.

"It's not just the lighting by itself, it's the lighting in concert with all the other building and everything that's going on right now," said Jacobsmeyer referring to Valley's reconstruction project. "What we didn't want to do was put up lighting that we would have to tear down later because something else was going to go there."

Along with the extensive safety upgrade plans, Valley has printed a Disaster Awareness pamphlet that deals with disaster preparedness plans as a campus, where faculty and staff will direct the students in an emergency. In correspondence with the pamphlet, faculty and staff go through two types of training — desktop and event trainings — to prepare for such an event.

If these are not indications that the campus is safe enough for its students, the sheriff's department is open 24 hours, seven days out of the week with a deputy on call at every hour. The sheriff's department is located in bungalow 59 on campus and is reachable by dialing 947-2911 or *80 from any pay phone.

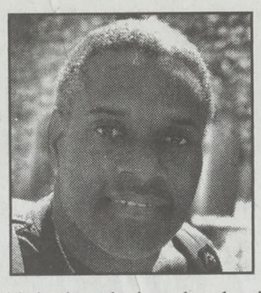
"Regardless of what the sheriff's department is doing and regardless of what the school is doing, you should always be cognizant of your own safety," said Deputy Rick Baker, interim team leader of Valley's sheriff's office. "Anything you do so you can feel more comfortable about coming to school, do it."

If that means leaving the school, then do it, but don't expect to find a safer campus in the district.

Campus View

What would you do to improve campus safety at Valley?

PHOTOS BY ARTAK AYVAZYAN

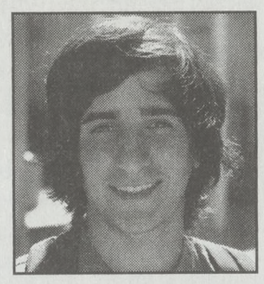


"I think that during the daytime things around here are fine, at nighttime little things like have more lights around the campus. If there's more lighting, there's less chance of a predator attacking you whether you're male or female."

-Stacey Jackson
Political Science/Criminal Justice

"If there could be call boxes in central areas where the classes are, sometimes I don't get out of class until 10:30 p.m. and I get scared walking to the other side of the campus, so if someone could escort me to my car."

-Charnai Daniels
African-American Studies



"I think it's fine, there's nothing wrong with it. I feel completely safe."

-Gio Castranova
Photography

"Have more guards around the parking lots. Two-years ago I was sexually harassed walking on this campus. Maybe have more signs that say, "go report it" around with the number for the sheriff's department posted. "

-Jackeline Ochoa
Undecided

STAFF EDITORIAL

Trouble Under the Big Top

If word got out that dancers or athletes were being beaten with clubs and shocked with electric prods by their coaches during training the government would put a stop to it immediately. So why are we letting these things happen to animals?

Circuses use whips, bullhooks and fire to train animals. To get bears to parade around on their hind legs, trainers will burn the bears' front paws before a show and the pain is too horrendous for them to walk on all fours, so the desired effect is achieved: Audiences get to see a bear walking on two legs like a human for their enjoyment.

Animals aren't meant to balance on balls and jump through hoops. It's not natural for them to perform complicated routines. Wild animals are meant to be free, not locked in cages and put through rigorous training. The attempted domestication of these beasts are what lead to backlashes that injure not only trainers but also audience members, including children. The most publicized retaliation was when Montecore, one of the white tigers used in Siegfried & Roy's act in Las Vegas, mauled Roy, putting him in the hospital for months.

That was not an isolated incident; over the past 10 years hundreds of people have been injured or killed by circus animals, according to the Humane Society.

The use of animals as entertainment has already been outlawed in a handful of countries, including Sweden, Austria, India and most recently Scotland, which announced its ban on this barbaric practice less than a month ago.

It's time for the United States to do the same.

There are many alternatives to circuses featuring animals: Animal-free circuses like the famed Cirque du Soleil features trapeze artists, tightrope walkers, jugglers and more, all without the use of unwilling animals.

Those who want to see animals can visit the zoo, where animals are housed in their natural habitats and not forced to perform.

Circuses are repeatedly cited for inhumane treatment of animals by the United States Department of Agriculture and violating standards set by the Animal Welfare Act, including failing to provide veterinary services, forcing sick animals to perform and not providing sufficient living space.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey recently settled one lawsuit and is already under investigation for the death of one of their animals.

"In less than two years, two baby elephants died, a caged tiger was shot to death, a horse who was used despite a chronic medical condition died during Ringling's traditional animal march, and a wild-caught sea lion was found dead in her transport container," according to a fact sheet compiled by PETA.

Many times when an animal gets too old or weak to perform, or if an animals suffers from sickness or an injury obtained while performing they are considered baggage and are killed.

Within the past six years the Shrine Circus has experienced multiple human deaths and injuries from rampaging and fightened animals.

This same circus will bring its acts to the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on Thursday. Don't purchase tickets to this performance for your safety and the animals' too. You can join the PETA-sponsored protest outside the Auditorium and give a voice to the abused animals that cannot speak for themselves.

The protest: Thursday outside the Shrine Auditorium at 665 W. Jefferson Blvd. If you can't make it, you can call the auditorium at (213) 748-5116 or e-mail them at shrinela@mac.com to encourage them to stop supporting circuses featuring animals. For more information go to www.peta.org.

VALLEY LIFE

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, April 19

Denim Day

Show support for the women in your life by wearing denim.
Monarch Square
Valley College
12:45 to 3:00 p.m.
Food, Education, Support, Live Music

UCLA Day

Information Fair 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Monarch Square. Admissions and Financial Aid workshops in the Foreign Language Building, room FL 100, research opportunities in FL 102 and a workshop for education minors in FL 104 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Thursday, April 20

DiGiTS, The Primos, The Attractives, The Pencils

The Smell
247 So. Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
9 p.m. / $5 / All Ages

Friday, April 21

Tim "The Torture King" Cridland and Sideshow Extravaganza

California Institute of Abnormal Arts
11334 Burbank Blvd. North
Hollywood (818) 506-6353
18+ / 9 p.m. / $10

Fitter, D.Y.M., Johnny's Gone Mad

Sylmar Highschool
13050 Borden Ave., Sylmar
6 p.m. / $5 / All Ages

The Brothers Quay

Join the Quays as they discuss and screen several of their acclaimed films.
Samuel Goldwin Theater
8949 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills
(310) 247-3000
$5 / $3 Student ID
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 22

The Moore Brothers

Amoeba Music
6400 Sunset Blvd.
Hollywood (323) 245-6400
2 p.m. / Free

Monday, April 24

Entrance, Winter Flowers, C.B. Brand, Lili Marlene

The Echo
1822 Sunset Blvd.
Echo Park
8:30 p.m. / Free / 21+

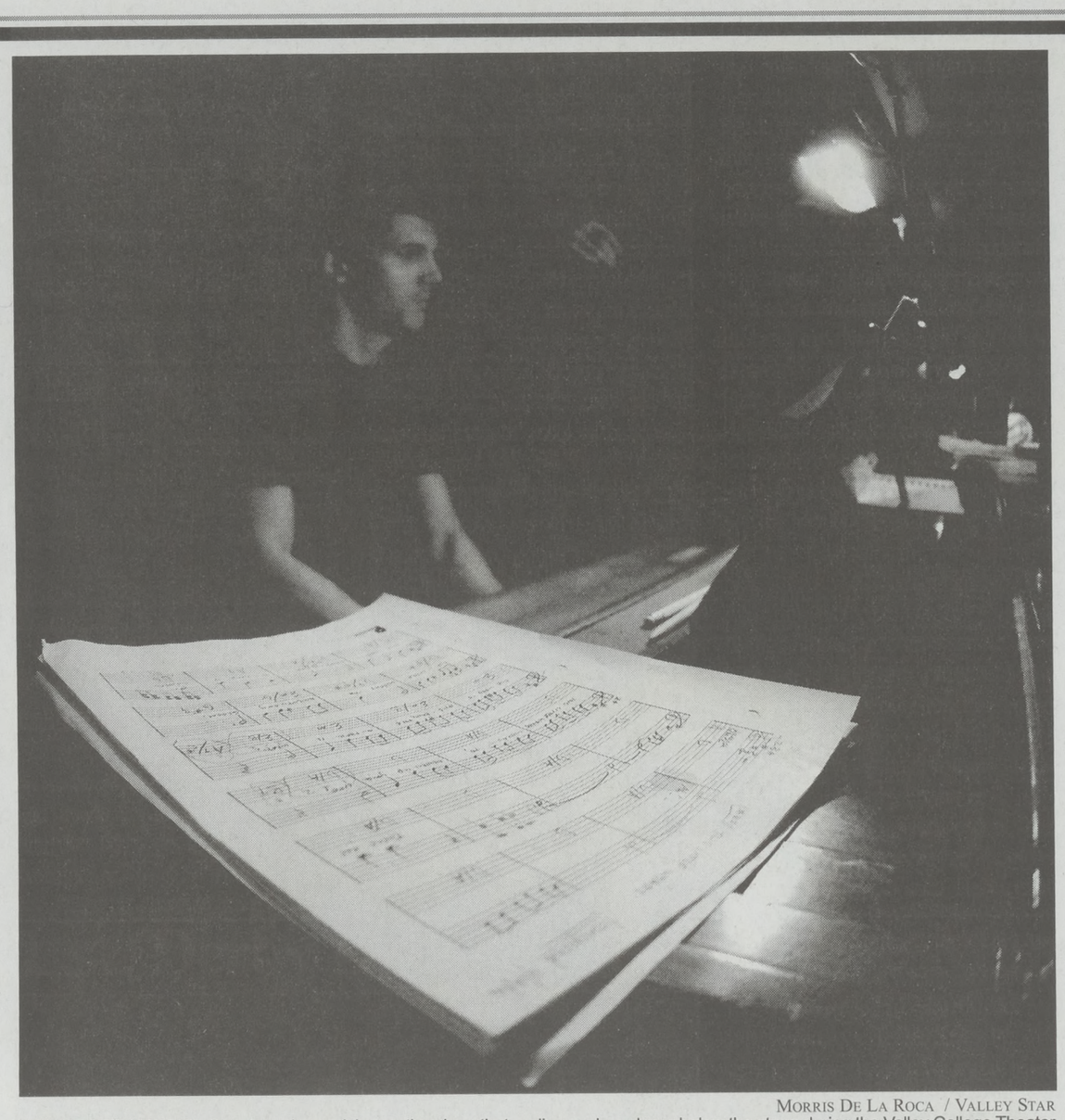
The Hollywood Hootch Bulesque Show with The Martini Kings

The Derby
4500 Los Feliz Blvd., Hollywood
8 p.m. / $5 / 21+

Tuesday, April 25

Jessica Denay presents and signs "The Hot Mom's Handbook: Moms Have More Fun!"

Book Soup
8818 Sunset Blvd.
W. Hollywood CA 90069 7 p.m.



MORRIS DE LA ROCA / VALLEY STAR

THE UNSEEN MUSIC - Sheet music was lying on the piano that audiences heard roar below the stage during the Valley College Theater Arts Department's production of "Steel Pier." Pianist Brent Schindele and Musical Director Jennifer Kelly brought the score to life.

MUSICAL REVIEW

It's Like Music To My "Steel Pier"

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
MANAGING EDITOR

The Mainstage Theater's most recent production showed that sometimes giving the underdog a shot pays off. "Steel Pier" may not be as well known as John Kander and Fred Ebb's other collaborations like "Chicago" or "Cabaret," but it more than made up for its unfamiliarity with witty dialog, charming characters and entertaining musical numbers.

The 1933 story revolves around Rita, a young woman who unexpectedly falls in love while on the road performing in dance marathons. Desperate to go home, Rita is partnered with Bill, a pilot who doesn't have much dance experience, in what is to be her last marathon.

Under Cathy Pyles' design, the set was beautifully constructed to bring Atlantic City's Steel Pier, famous for its shows that featured horses jumping from hundreds of feet off the ground into water, to the sold-out Mainstage Theater.

Carly Turner's powerful voice proved that she was more than deserving of the lead role with six numbers. Though Turner masterfully led the 22-member cast in 16 numbers, the highlight of the show was Jenna Townsend's rendition of "Everybody's Girl." Her charismatic performance was not only a crowd pleaser, but also shook up the bill of mostly ballads.

The roles of Precious and Happy McGuire, played by Heather Williams and Vincent Perez, supplied comedic relief for the production. Williams' Precious will stop at nothing to make it on the radio – including making a fool of herself and betraying her husband, a loyal small town man.

In what was her last production at Valley College, musical director Jennifer Kelly went out with a bang. Kelly led the orchestra in bringing Kander and Ebb's dynamic music to life.

The theater department's next production, "An Inspector Calls" by the Valley Collegiate Players, will run at the Horseshoe Theater May 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27. For reservations call (818) 947-2790.

THEATER REVIEW

"The Good Body" Uncovers Masterful Student Performances

■ Valley College students perform critically acclaimed stage play at the Horseshoe Theatre.

BY MARC HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

"In the midst of a war on Iraq when one out of three women will be beaten or raped in her lifetime, why write a play about my stomach?" Simone Meyer asked the audience at the Horseshoe Theater soon after stepping onto the stage as Eve, the lead role in an inspired Valley College student production of "The Good Body."

Eve goes on to explain that she has noticed how she and many other women have bought into the American ideal of what beauty is and how it is that the idea of having "The Good Body" can come to occupy so much of a woman's attention even in a time of much more weighty social issues.

Written by Eve Ensler, of "The Vagina Monologues" fame, "The Good Body" is the follow-up to that groundbreaking, award-winning play and treads common thematic water with the 2001 work that brought her to prominence.

This production represents the impressive directorial debut of Natalia Abrams and the end of a one-year hiatus from acting for Meyers. The topics the play discusses are of particular interest to Abrams and Meyers who serve as the president and vice-president respectively of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance club at Valley.

"I have always dealt with my own body issues. It's this ridiculous fascination with oneself," Abrams said. "I really related to Eve and I felt that the stories of the seven strong yet body obsessed women needed to be told."

On one level, the show was an admonishment of a society that breeds and nurtures the insecurities of the women who live within it and of the women who buy into the ideal of what is beautiful; on another level, it was a multi-layered musing on womanhood by a variety of women from various walks of life.

The play's brightest light was Meyer, playing a 30-something-year-old woman enjoying success after having written a hit play, but frustrated at not having "The Good Body." Throughout the play, Meyer's audacious performance evoked both belly-laughs and sympathy; her attitude, earnestness and charisma are arresting and attractive.

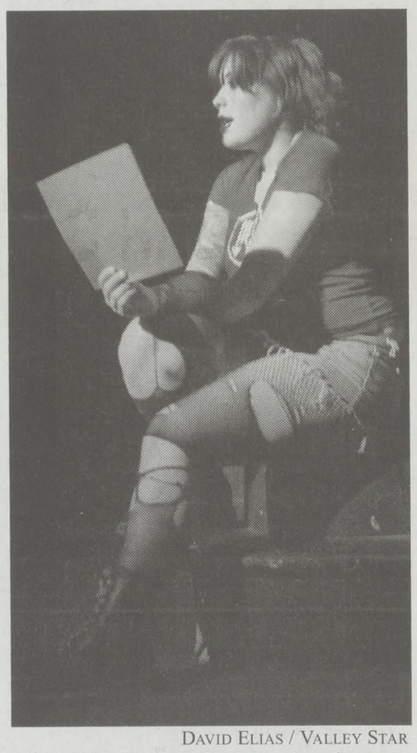
"This play was written for me. I cried the first time I read it," the law major said. "I know that every woman in that play is somewhere inside of me and I just let that come through me."

Eve travels to South Africa, where she meets and discusses the topic of acceptance of oneself with Leah, played pitch perfect by Anastasia Washington, who is much more in tune with herself and comfortable in her own skin. "Do you like your body?" Eve asks. "I love my body," Leah responds utterly bewildered at Eve's inability to accept her own body as wholeheartedly. Elizabeth Hensley, in one of her two roles in the show, plays Nina, a middle-aged Italian woman managing to maintain a youthful figure. During a conversation with Nina, Eve tells the older woman how much she admires her body. Nina responds by telling the story of how her body has brought her as much pain as it has happiness. She explains how as an adolescent, her large breasts earned her the attention of a particular older man. Because of her relationship with the man, the relationship between Nina and her mother became so strained that it was decided that the 14-year-old would have breast reduction surgery. The surgery was ultimately a failed attempt to dissolve the tensions.

One of the more striking elements of the show was the level of sincerity and unflagging bluntness the cast confronted the audience with. Whether addressing the audience directly or engaged with one another in a session of heart-to-heart, these women let their guard down and displayed a sort of intimacy that is rare in friendships between men.

The cast was rounded out by Theresa Chavez, Katie Ravnik and Ana Sapir; all of whom gave convincing performances illustrative of various aspects of womanhood, of being beautiful and of being insecure.

Through their performances this group of six young actresses displayed a thorough understanding of the mature themes of the nearly one-hour piece and their command of the material was evident.



DAVID ELIAS / VALLEY STAR

FISHNETS AND LIPSTICK - Ana Sapir as Dana the body modification artist and hard-core feminist in discourse during the Valley College student production of "The Good Body."

"The Good Body" dissects what it is to be a woman in a culture where both men and women are obsessed with physical beauty and analyzes our culture's narrow view of what physical beauty is.

L.A. Derby Dolls Skate To Raise Money For A New Dollhouse

DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

COLLIDE AND COLLAPSE - L.A. Derby Dolls #ru486 Estrojen and #193 Venus De Maul'r fighting to pass one another moments before crashing into a Valley Star photographer during the Tough Cookies and Trust Fund Terrors exhibition game on April 2 in North Hollywood.

BY JESUS ESQUIVEL
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Contact sport aficionados have probably seen their share of football games and boxing matches but have seldom seen the intensity of an adrenaline charged roller derby bout.

Founded in 2003 and hailing from the city of angels the L.A. Derby Dolls are anything but angelic. The all-female roller derby league has members that resemble the women Rick James sang about, "The kind you don't take home to mother."

These are ladies in make up, tattoos and fishnets who play so rough that broken-bones, knocked-out teeth and swollen ankles are common after bouts and practice.

"If I don't have bruises after practice, then it wasn't a good practice, they're like our badges," said Markie D. Sod, a redheaded veteran of one of the league's four teams, Tough Cookies, who dress like Girl Scouts with a punk-rock influence. "Today's match is like practice; a skate in the park."

It was a "practice" session that drew more than 600 spectators to the North Hollywood YMCA outdoor roller hockey rink on Sunday, April 2. The event featured the Tough Cookies in an exhibition match against the Trust Fund Terrors where all proceeds went to fund a place the girls coul all call their new Dollhouse.

"We had our own place in Chinatown but it got shut down by the fire marshal," said Fight Crew team member Jenny Snide. "It was fun while it lasted but now we are trying to raise money for our own banked track and run everything legally."

Sunday's match was played on a flat-track, which made it difficult to negotiate turns on quad roller skates. Little pink markers were placed on the floor to show how close audience members could get to the action.

"Sitting on the little pink Xs near the track will guarantee that you'll get your teeth kicked down your throat," said announcer Blaine Capatch, who had a cynically dark humor in his commentary through out the match.

Despite Capatch's occasional potty mouth and players crashing into audience members parents brought their kids to this outdoor event complete with a barbecue, a bake sale and a DJ playing instrumental-surf-rock throughout the event.

"This is a family event," said L.A. Derby Dolls co-founder Demolicious. "Well, a certain style of family."

A family that enjoys sporting events where the announcer talks about his mushroom high kicking in, the national anthem singer stopping to "skip to the good part" and beautiful girls competing on roller skates would love a good Derby Dolls bout.

But the fun doesn't stop at the track; the Derby Dolls website features a section called the "Hall of Pain" where you can see X-Rays of Pulp Vixen's broken finger, a photo of Iron Maiven with a split lip and broken incisor, and an injury that looks like a "shark bite" on Markie D. Sod's chest.

Help the L.A. Derby Dolls with medical bills and completion funds for their bank by attending upcoming events posted on www.derbydolls.com.

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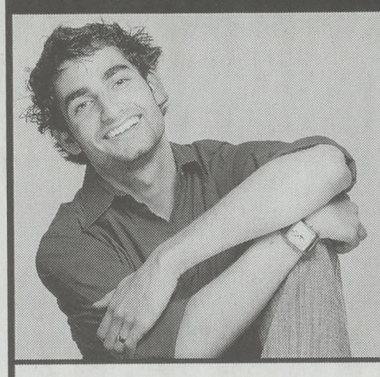

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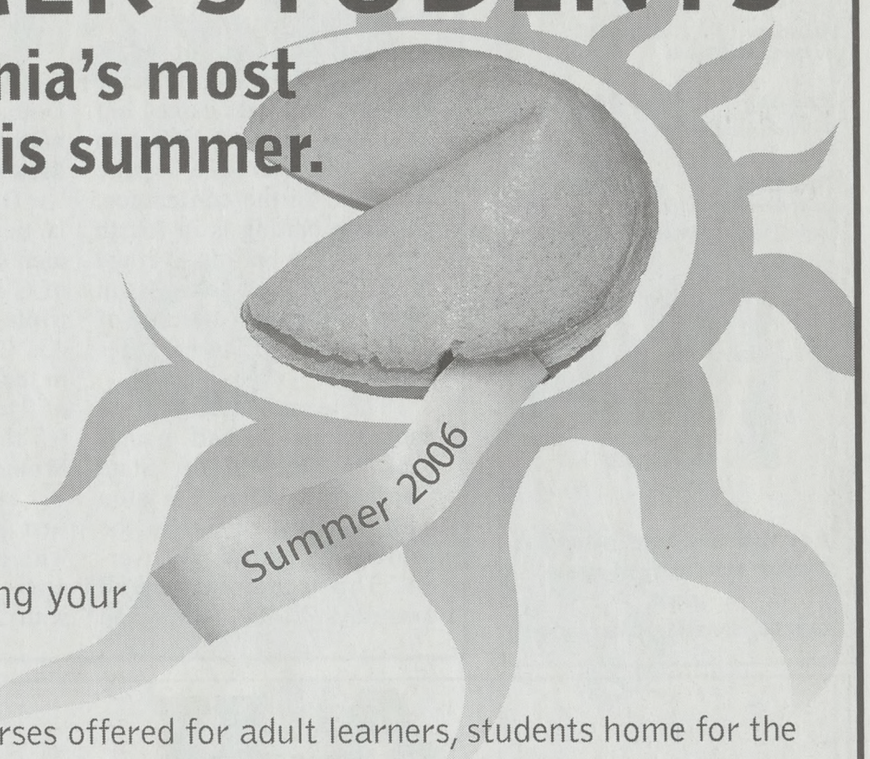

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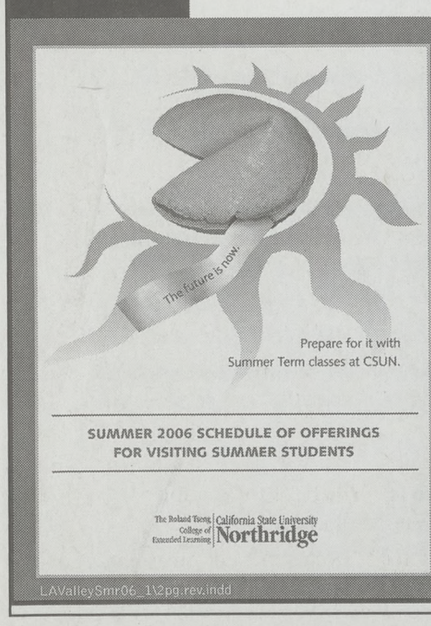
Session 2: June 5 – July 14
Session 3: July 17 – August 25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Mail-in, in-person and web registration begin April 10. Walk-in and drop box registration are held at the Client Services counter, Room 100, in the Tseng College/Matador Bookstore Complex. Summer 2006 for Visiting Summer Students information is available on the web. Class schedules are available at the Tseng College/Bookstore Complex. For additional information or a free Summer 2006 schedule, please call the Tseng College office, (818) 677–2504 or visit web site: http://tsengcollege.csun.edu.

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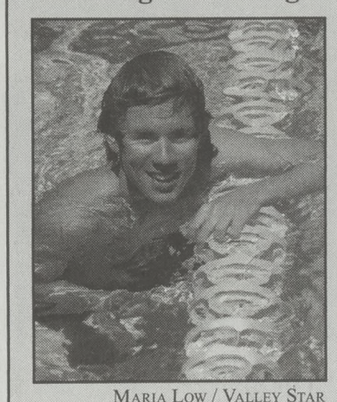
Stars of the Week

Swimming and Diving



MARIA LOW / VALLEY STAR

Marc Hicks
19
Freshman
Swims the 200-yard IM, 400-yard IM and 1650-yard freestyle
Came in third among 64 swimmers in the 400-yard IM.

LAVC SCORES

Baseball @ Fullerton Tournament vs.
Santa Ana (L 11-7)
San Diego Mesa (L 6-3)
Irvine Valley (L 3-1)
Riverside (L 4-3)
Baseball Record: 12-25-1, 8-10

Softball vs. Citrus
(L 5-3 and L 8-0)
Softball Record: 15-20, 7-7

Men's Swimming and Diving @ The Pasadena Invitational (came in 13th place)

Women's Swimming and Diving @ the Pasadena Invitational (came in 17th place)

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 4/19/06
No Scheduled Games

Thursday 4/20/06
Baseball vs. Pierce 2:30 p.m.
Softball vs. Bakersfield 2:30 p.m.

Friday 4/21/06
Swimming and Diving @ El Camino

Saturday 4/22/06
Baseball @ Citrus 1 p.m.
Track WSC Prelims @ Santa Barbara City College 9 a.m.
Swimming and Diving @ El Camino

Sunday 4/23/06
No Scheduled Games

Monday 4/24/06
No Scheduled Games

Tuesday 4/25/06
Baseball vs. Citrus 2:30 p.m.
Softball @ L.A. Mission 1 and 3 p.m.

For more sport photos and stories, please visit www.lavalleystar.com

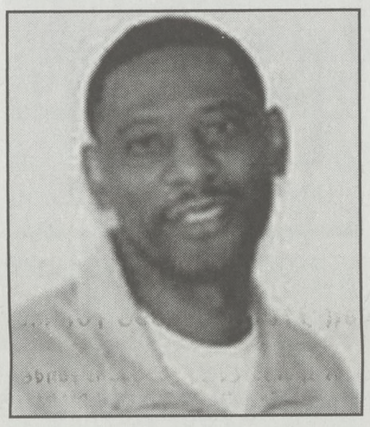
Valley Coach Back in Lion's Den

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After more than 15 years, Virgil Watson will return to Valley College as head coach of the men's basketball team.

Watson, who worked as an assistant coach for the Monarchs' basketball team in the mid-1980s, coached at Pasadena City College, Ventura College and Cal State Northridge. He currently coaches at Contra Costa College where his team won the Bay Valley Conference championship last season.

"This is a good program and I am looking forward to helping get the team back to a championship level," said Watson about Valley.

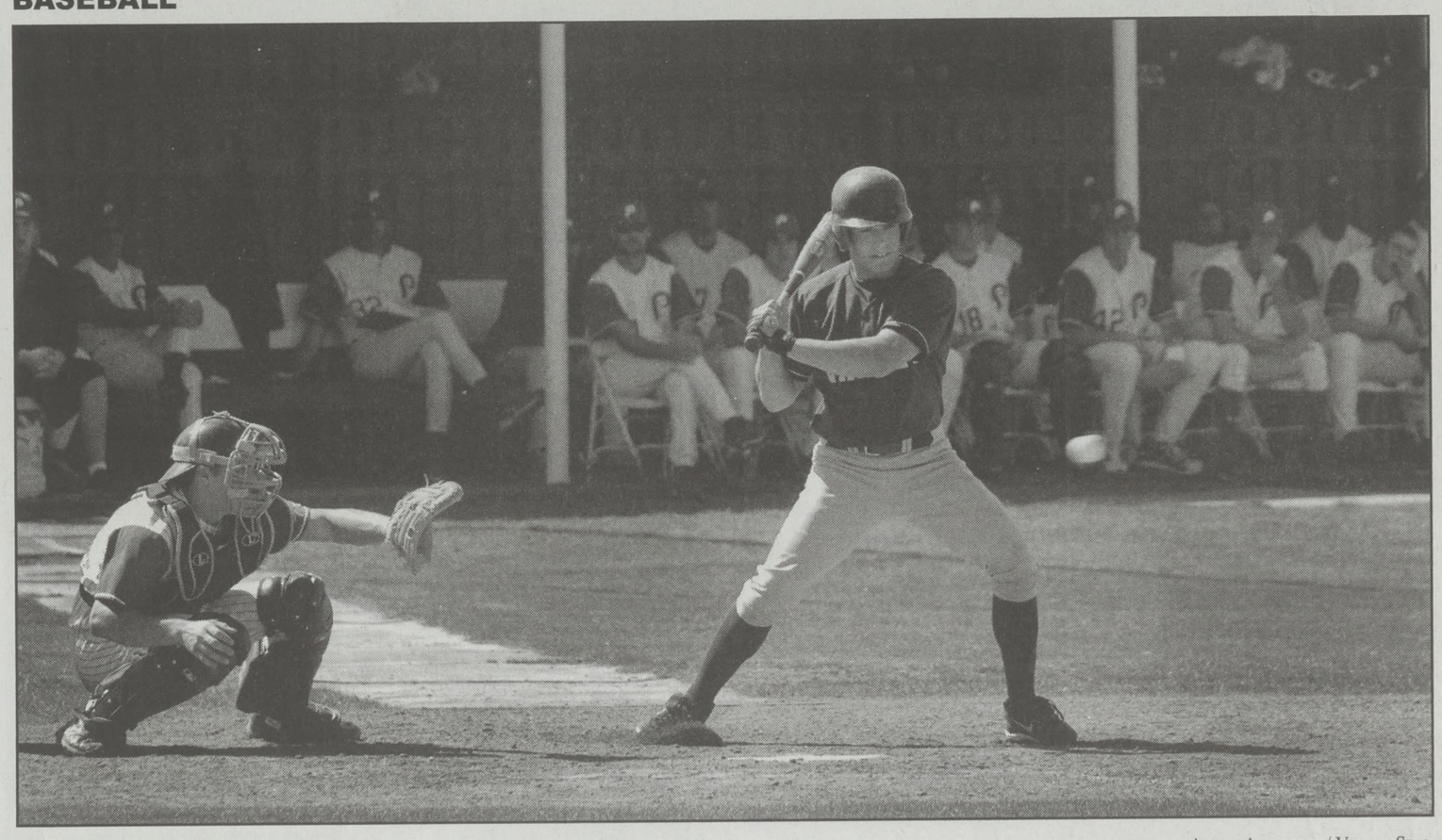


VIRGIL WATSON

Watson will replace interim coach Kenny Williams who led the Monarchs this season and served as an assistant coach at Valley for 12 years. Under Williams, the team went 4-8 in their conference and 11-18 overall. Williams filled in for Glen Hefferman who resigned as head coach Sept. 1, 2005 to become the assistant coach of DePaul University.

"He is a great candidate and will do a great job," said Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero. "He went through a competitive hiring process and was ultimately chosen by President Tyree Wieder."

BASEBALL



ARTAK AYVAZYAN / VALLEY STAR

CLOSE BUT NO CIGAR - First baseman and outfielder Leandro Dottavio prepares to swing in yesterday's game against Pierce College where the Monarchs lost the game by a score of 7-5 to bring their conference record to 8-11 and overall record to 12-26-11. Their next game will be Thursday against Pierce College at home at 2:30 pm.

SWIMMING

Monarch Swim Team Ready for State Conference Meet

BY MARCO ELORREAGA
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's men's and women's swim teams placed 13th and 17th respectively in the Pasadena Invitational at Pasadena City College April 14 and 15 as they prepare for the conference finals.

"Up to this point, I think the people who have been working really hard are beginning to see the results," said Michael Santo, the women's water polo coach. "This is our last meet before conference, so it's a good indication at where they are right now in the season."

Both Marc Hicks and Eddie Tsivislavsky came in third in their respective events. Hicks finished with a time of 4:30 in the 400-yard individual IM while Tsivislavsky had a time of 1:02 in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Even with the individual successes, it wasn't enough for Valley to place higher in the meet.

"We left after the Saturday morning session," said Coach Bill Krauss. "We didn't want them to get too tired because our big meet is our Western State Conference Championship in two weeks."

Competing against 18 schools, Valley's men's swim team excelled, scoring 64 points while the women's swim team scored 48 points among 21 schools.

The second day of events was more of a strenuous schedule than Friday and Valley met the challenge head on.

In the 200-yard individual freestyle, women's swimmer Caitlin Howison placed 16th with a time of 2:08 beating out 47 swimmers. On the men's side, Eric Kramer finished 23rd out of 60 swimmers with a time of 1:57.

Tsivislavsky placed 3rd in the 100-yard breaststroke and Kevin Coyne came in 14th with a time of 1:06 for the same event out of 50 swimmers.

"I think they're going to drop a whole lot more coming into conference," said Santo. "After they brush up on a few little things and get a little more rest,"

The Diving Championship will be held April 21 and 22 at El Camino College and the Western State Conference Championship will be held a week later April 27 through 29 at Citrus College.

WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE

Monarchs WSC Record Slides

Softball

With a record of 13-5, the team is in fourth place and two and half games out of first place in the Western State Conference Blue Division. In the conference, the team batting is in fourth place with a batting average of .320 and the pitching is in eighth place with a record of 12-16 with an ERA of 3.49.

Baseball

The team is in fifth place and six and a half games back in the Western State Conference Blue Division with a record of 5-9 in the conference and 11-18 overall. The team ranks ninth overall in team bating and 11th in pitching. Thomas Cassidy ranks fourth among the top 50 hitters and Leandro Dottavio ranks first in triples with three.

Men's Track

Dartanian Hightower is tied for second place in men's high jump with a jump of 6'4.75" and eighth in the triple jump with a jump of 43.' Clarence Walton is sixth in the long jump with a jump of 21'7." The team is tenth is the 1600-meter relay.

Women's Track

Antoinette Burton is in first place in the high jump with a jump of 5' 3.75" and ninth place in the long jump with a jump of 15'3." The women's team is fourth in the 400-yard relay and seventh in the 1600-yard relay. Pardis Sabouti is sixth in the 100-yard hurdles with a time of 16.93 and tenth in the 400-yard intermediate hurdles with a time of 1:21.86.

Men's Swimming

They are in fifth place with a record of 1-3. Eddie Tsivislavsky is in first place in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:3.70 and second in the 200-yard breast with a time of 2:21.67. In the 500-yard freestyle Eric Kramer is in eighth place with a time of 5:19.44 and Jose Venegas is in 10th place with a time of 5:24.29. Eric Kramer is also in seventh place in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:55.48. The team is in third place in the 400-yard medly relay with a time of 4:9.04, fourth place in the 200-yard and 400-yard freestyle relay and third in the 200-yard medly relay.

Women's Swimming

They are in fifth place with a record of 1-3. Caitlin Howison is in 10th place in the 100-yard freestyle and sixth place in the 200-yard freestyle. Nicole Joslyn is in sixth place in the 50-yard backstroke with a time of 42.99. The team is in fifth place in the 200-yard and 400-yard freestyle relay.

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Logo Identity Design Competition
hosted by the Greater Valley Glen Council

Attention high school and college level students who live, study or work in Greater Valley Glen!

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Theme: The council is looking for an inclusive logo design that depicts the community of Greater Valley Glen, focusing on its civic diversity.

The Greater Valley Glen Council is elected by the stakeholders in the Greater Valley Glen area to serve as a neighborhood advisory board to the Los Angeles City government. We are volunteer homeowners, renters, business people and representatives from schools, churches and non-profit groups. Our goals include, but are not limited to, improving public safety and protecting the quality of life in our neighborhood.

The office of Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Council District 2 will award the winner with a Certificate of Achievement.

Deadline for submission is June 9, 2006

Guidelines are available on the web at:
www.charlottelaws.org/Logo%20contest%20GVGC%202.htm
If you need further information, please contact Linda Wehrli, Arts and Education Committee Chair at 818/766-0614 or pastimes@earthlink.net.

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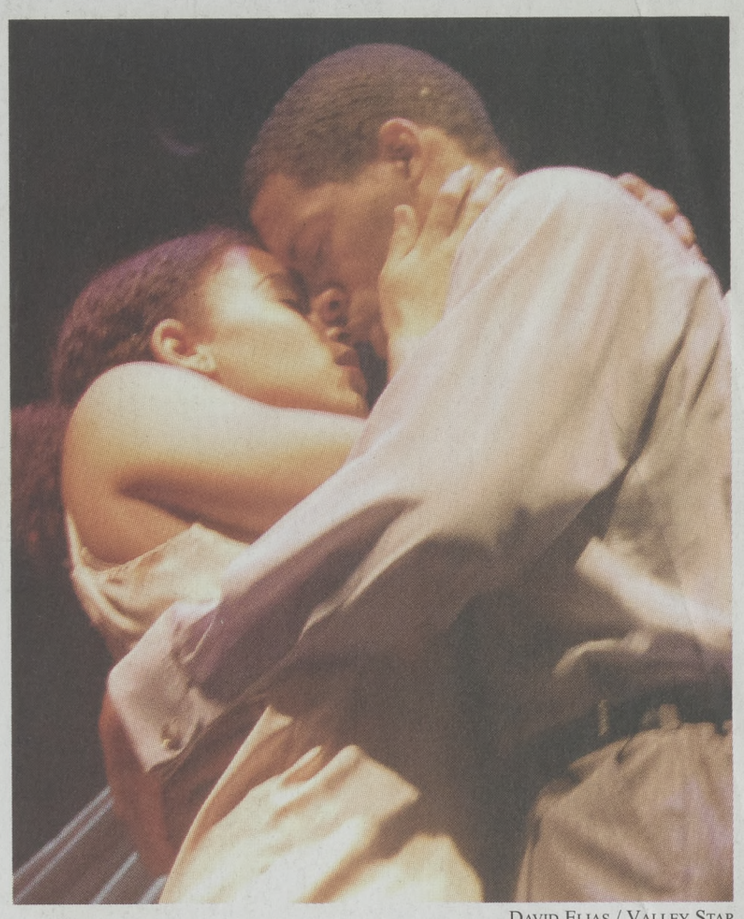
GALLERY

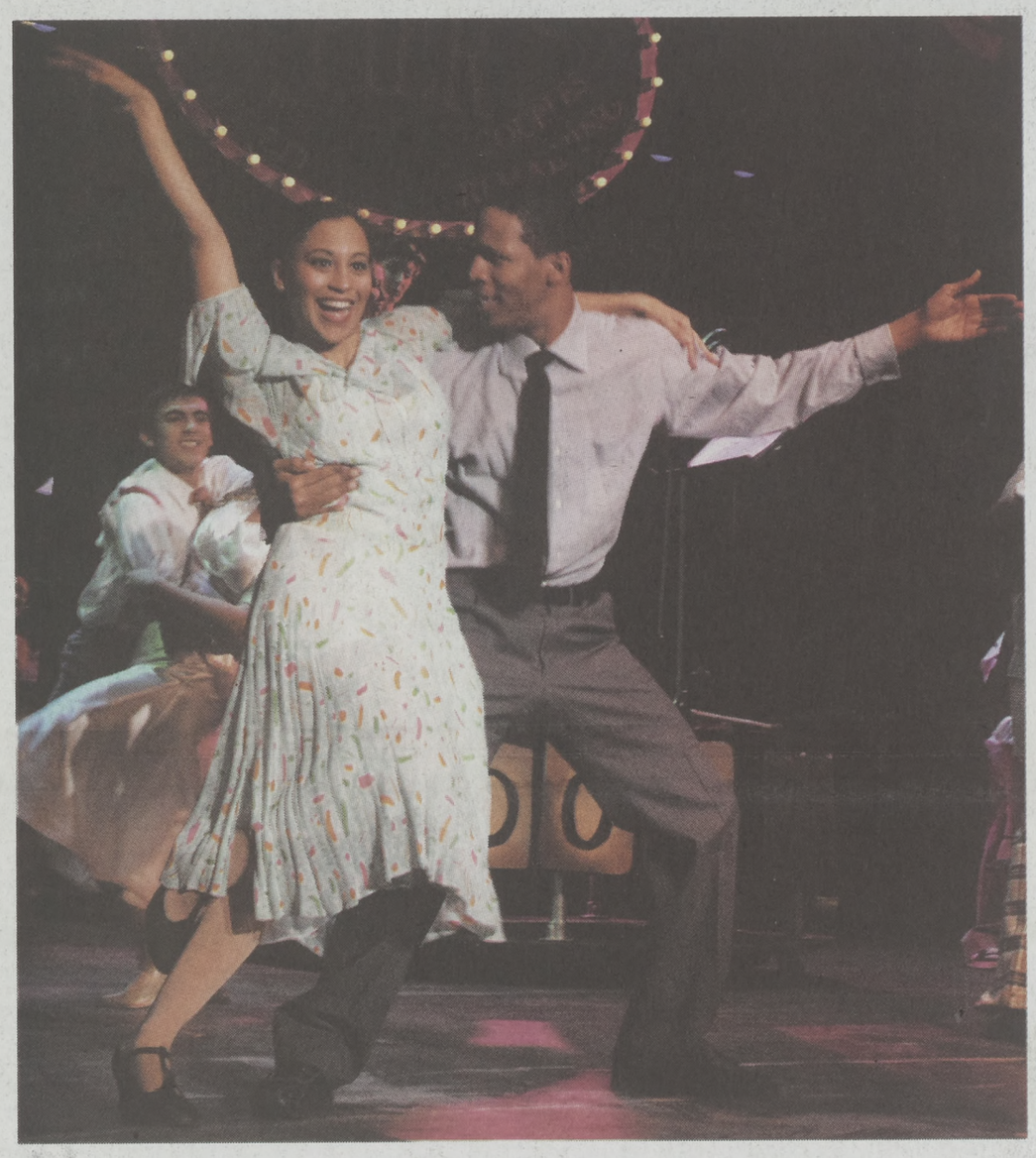
MORRIS DE LA ROCA / VALLEY STAR

GIVE 'EM A HAND! - The Theatre Arts Department's cast of "Steel Pier" present themselves to the audience after their stellar performance marked by drama, laughter and heartbreak.



DAVID ELIAS / VALLEY STAR

WAITING TO EXHALE - Carly Turner and Darius Shipp share a passionate embrace as Rita Racine and Bill Kelly, the lovers that can never be.



MORRIS DE LA ROCA / VALLEY STAR

MILLION-DOLLAR SMILE - Carly Turner lights up the stage alongside the cast of "Steel Pier." The production couples passionate performances with immaculate choreography; a performance worth witnessing.

DAVID ELIAS / VALLEY STAR

WHAT A PAIR! - Carly Turner and Jack Kimball lead the pack in one of the many perfectly orchestrated and choreographed musical numbers.

STEEL PIER

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY
MORRIS DE LA ROCA
AND DAVID ELIAS

The Valley College Theatre Arts Department presented Kander and Ebb's "Steel Pier," a musical set during the great depression that incorporates love, intrigue and hardship. The cast put on an unforgetable performance that drew in the audience to the plight and struggle of the characters.

MORRIS DE LA ROCA / VALLEY STAR

EVERYBODY'S GIRL - Jenna Townsend is mesmerizing as Shelby Stevens, which is evident in the facial expressions of the gentlemen of "Steel Pier."